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ROLLED UP TO GO
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TESTIMONY OF AN ANTI-HOARDER
JESSICA NAPIER ON DE-CLUTTERING {page 16}

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LONDON metro®
Tuesday, May 17, 2011
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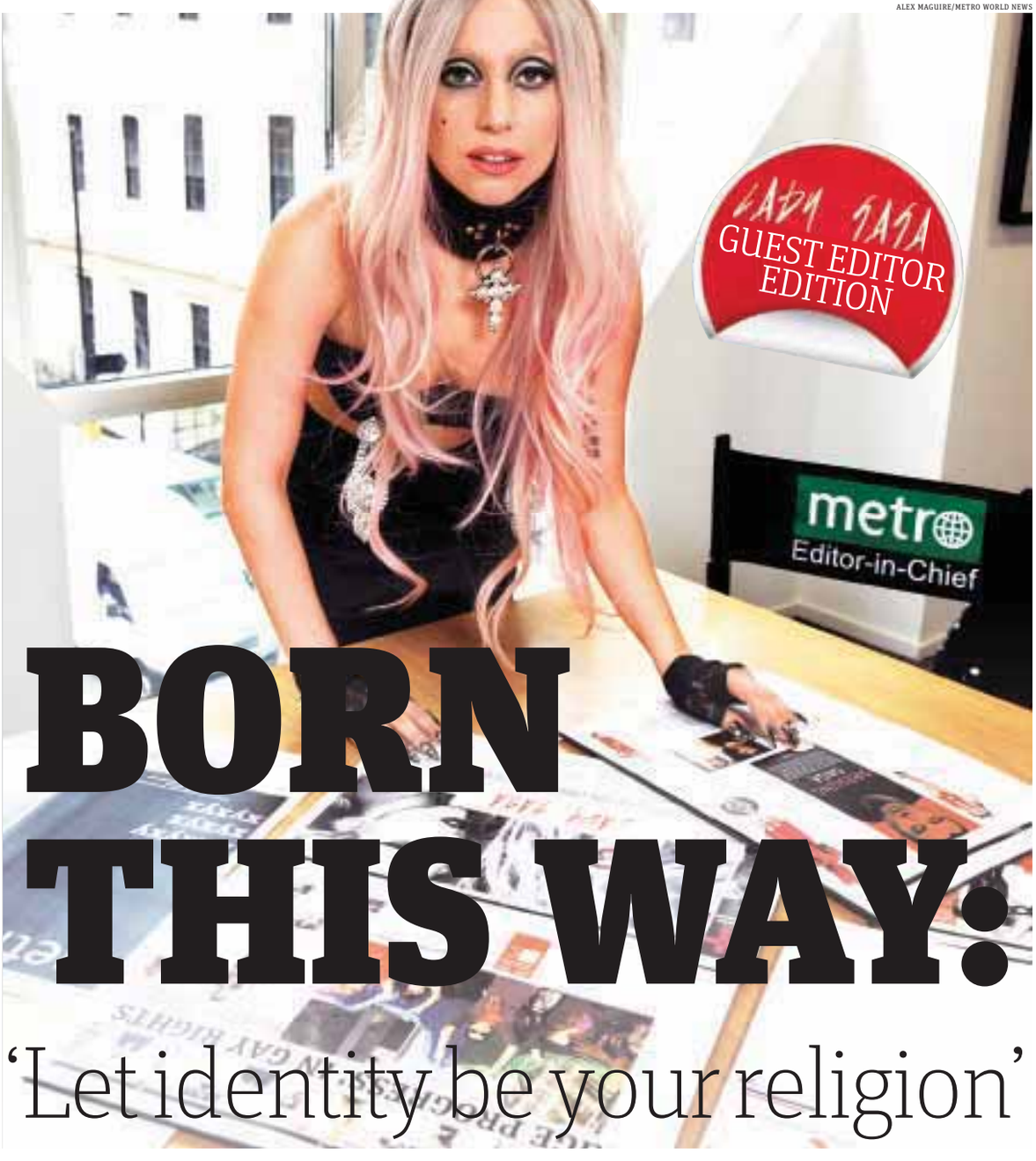
ALEX MAGUIRE/METRO WORLD NEWS



BORN THIS WAY:
'Let identity be your religion'

THE GAGA INTERVIEW {pages 4–5}

A LOOK AT GAY RIGHTS WORLDWIDE {pages 6–7}

MEET THE LITTLE MONSTERS {pages 8–9}

GAGA'S CULTURAL INFLUENCE {page 10}

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ALEX MAGUIRE

Our editor-in-chief Lady Gaga with her editorial assistant, Jeroen Engelen.

From the desk of the editor

Dear Monsters,

Let Your Identity Be Your Religion.

I am so very honoured and proud to be the editor-in-chief of Metro for the day. Not only because I can speak with you directly, but because I wish to illuminate the powerful voice of my generation and let them speak for themselves. Little Monsters are not a fan base; they are a culture that exists entirely outside of pop music. They are their own religion. They are a race within the race of humanity. The freedom and unprejudiced nature of The Monsterball, and for those who love Born This Way, spreads widely and has begun to live outside of the walls of the arena and the album charts.

I don't say this with hubris, or with intent to take ownership over this community (as in fact they created their voice, not I), but rather I'd like to posture the possibility that kindness, mobilization and pop culture can push the boundaries of love and acceptance. We are all different, and it is this fact that makes us the same.

In the most basic and scientific sense, our "way," as we were born, would be defined as cellular procreation, as I have theatrically interpreted in many of my performance pieces. So, if we were to analyze this basic formula, we could quite simply say we were born not only from each other, but we were additionally made of each other, and designed to grow together. Love is the magic ingredient, of course, to the giant petri dish of life.

In this issue, I nominated Monster ambassadors to represent each Metro country from around the world. I asked them to research, write about and identify which issues pertaining to equality and social justice affect their region the most. In this paper, I've included graphs, charts, commentary, global surveys and articles inspired and generated by Little Monsters. This piece conjures an approach to anti-bullying and equality that encourages togetherness through our shared human struggles. Metro and I beckon for those who are perhaps not affected by these challenges to help spread awareness of their reality, and act as a nurturing and compassionate force to those in need.

Be yourself, love who you are, and be proud. You were born this way, baby.

Sincerely,

LADY GAGA

Gaga's intern for a day: 'One of my biggest dreams ever'

Dear Lady Gaga,

I will read my letter to you.

I just can't believe that this dream became reality. It's like Tinkerbell's magical dust sprinkled all over me. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving me strength, the power of self respect, for your love, creativity and passionate, fashionable work. We weren't the best fans in the world without you Gaga. You made us believe in ourselves and never give up.

I feel so blessed and honoured that you chose me as your editorial assistant today, of all those little monsters across the galaxy. Yes, I think you do have admirers from outer space. I prayed every day and made a wish when I saw a shooting star on the perfect night with my friends. You're a big glittering star shining down on us, inspiring children and insecure individuals to be themselves. To fight against AIDS, and for human rights, full equality, without forgetting the devastating forces of nature (Japan). You truly deserve the title, Warrior Queen.

There are so many dreams I hope to accomplish one day. I study Graphic Design in Holland and this is my graduation year. A while ago, I was rejected at an arts academy because they said I was too good for them. It made me feel like I did not belong in this industry, although it was meant as a compliment. They said that I had to apply to a company or a brand. And now I only have three weeks to apply before summer vacation starts. Otherwise I have no job or education for a year.

One of my biggest dreams ever is to work for you, Gaga. It's so unreal that I feel guilty asking you. I know it's a lot to ask but I remember what you said and it inspired me so much to work even harder at school, to become even greater! We should always start at the bottom and do whatever it takes to climb that mountain. Scrubbing floors, cleaning toilets, doing the dishes, removing cobwebs, etc. I'll do what it takes to be a great artistic graphic designer for a lady like you.

Do you remember Pieter Henket? The photographer who shot The Fame album cover? I interviewed him for my school magazine and he told me all about you. He said to always look ahead and love the mud you're in. Because it's always hard work! It made me even more excited to tell you this. So, who knows, maybe you can use me as your intern someday?

The cover designs of the Born This Way album are true perfection. I've never seen anything like it. Nick Knight is so awesome. I love your taste, Gaga. Today, I'm going to put the utmost care into being your little assistant. I will be strong and I'm not going to disappoint you. I say, let's make some magic baby!

But I have a few gifts for you. A few from myself and one from a friend of mine. The first is the illustration above, which I drew.

Enjoy. Much love xxoo
Jeroen Engelen

Contest

The ultimate little monsters

We found the world's biggest Gaga fans and asked them why they were "born this way." "There's really no line anymore between where I begin and my fans begin," Gaga says. "We are each other."

Report

Gay rights around the world

We look at the progress — or lack thereof — internationally, with a look at the highs and lows.

Interview

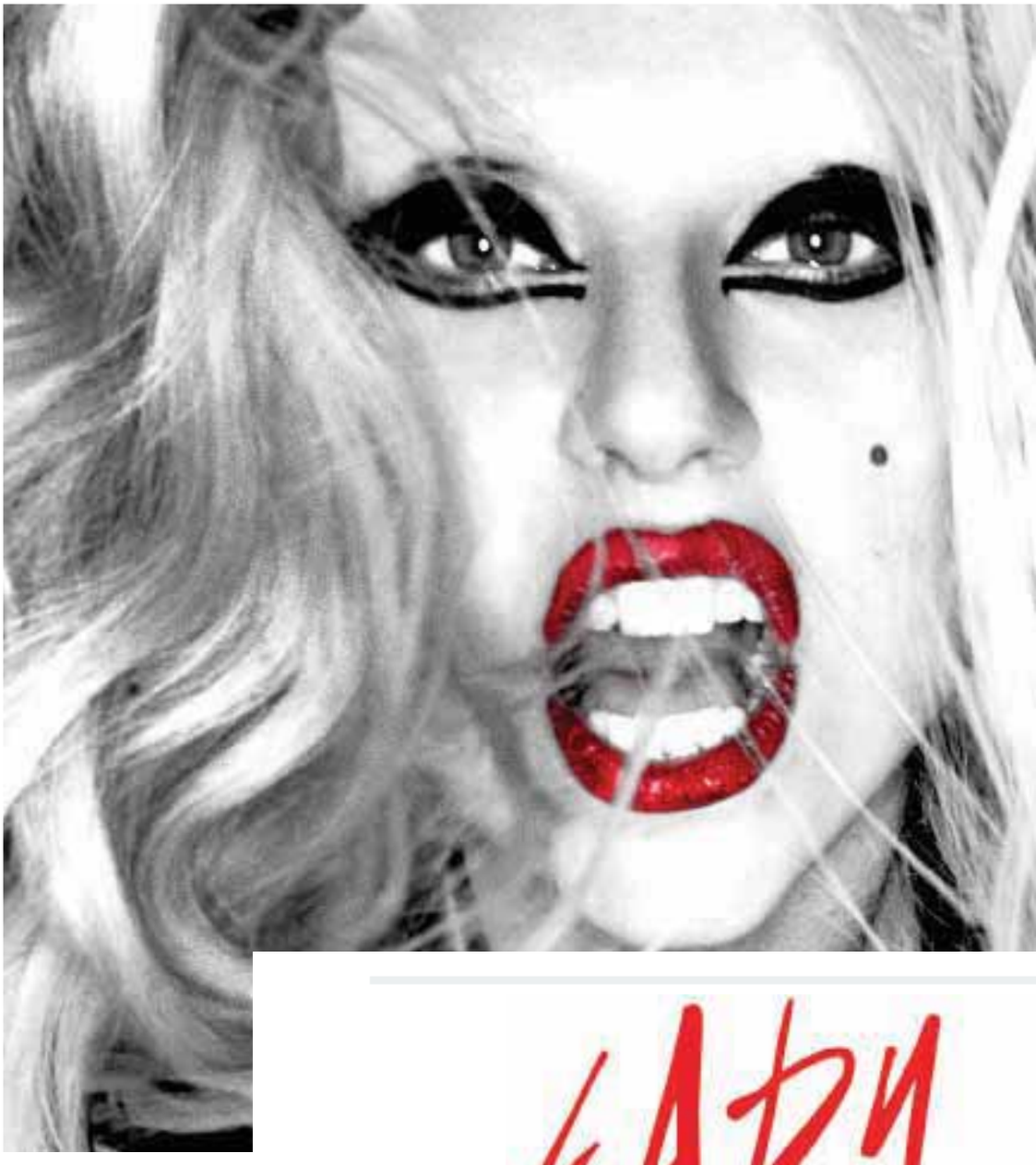
A one-on-one with the Mother Monster

Lady Gaga sits down with Metro and tells it like it is.

THE GAGA INTERVIEW

"I'm off-the-charts gay! But that's not quite the way to put it. As if you are or you're not. It's this completely subjective overarching aesthetic called life."

Michael Freidson
metro world news
michael.freidson@metro.lu



LADY

THE ONE-ON-ONE INTERVIEW

So, I'm from your old neighbourhood in New York. My mother teaches musical theater there.
Have you seen my show? Because I was a theater kid. I was always perceived as a theater nerd and that is very much a part of all the bullying I talk about during the show. It stemmed from that.

Theater geeks are taking over the world now.
Yeah. And a lot of theater lovers are super music librarians and super fashion librarians and know everything about composers, designers and directors. They've so much to be in love with.

Let's start with the new album, Born This Way. Is there a theme to it? Are we wrong to expect a statement from dance music?
No, in fact, thank goodness everyone expects something from me at this point. Born This Way is my answer to many questions over the years: 'Who are you? What are you about?' The most paramount theme on the record is me struggling to understand how I can exist as myself, as someone who lives halfway between fantasy and reality all the time.

What's it like to live between two people?
It's not two people. It's two worlds. Two aesthetics. For example, the religious themes I explore on the album are not necessarily religious in an institutional way but are about being fascinated with characters. I was taught my whole life about Judas and Jesus and Mary Magdalene. Mary Magdalene fascinates me because she was, in my belief, both wholly human and wholly divine. So how can I be fully magical and fully human?

You're going to get a lot of autobiographical questions because you're selling your personality on Born This Way.
Isn't that interesting, that you have to sell your personality? That in itself is kind of what Born This Way is all about. I don't want to sell my personality. My personality is mine and yours is yours.

But the difference is, you're asking me to pay for yours. Are you a real person or part of a marketing machine?
It's kind of like saying, 'Are you honest? Do you have integrity? Are you full of shit?' But listen, my social involvement for equality and gay rights, as well as my music, is completely genuine. But I don't think I ever want everyone to ever know fully who or what I am. Part of what I'm doing is asking you to look inside yourself, to ask yourself questions.

Have you been in therapy?
No therapy yet. I probably should be. (Laughs) I have a close relationship with my family. I'm very close with my fans and I'm in tune with what they want. And I'm in tune with myself, too. At the end of the day, I have to look myself in the mirror and I'm proud of everything I stand for. I have no reason to do or say anything unless it comes from my soul. I work very hard. I don't party very much. You don't see me falling out of nightclubs and buying Range Rovers. Social justice and music are the two most paramount things in my life and I can't put it more plainly.

Where does sexuality fit in to that? Do you use it consciously?
Because I'm sexy? (Laughs) Well, I'm a woman. Now, what specifically do you find sexy? I think this is funny. For the first two-and-a-half years of my career, I was considered to be the weird girl who dressed very crazy. I don't think I'm perceived as sexy.

You never felt sexy, even when first performing?
I felt like any other 15-

GAGA

In an exclusive, hour-long sit-down, the Mother Monster met with Metro at the Beverly Hills Hotel for an open, revealing talk. "I'm not someone who got into this business to get into interviews," she told us halfway through. "But I can tell you, I'm infinitely more relaxed right now."

year-old girl who's trying to figure it all out. I'm just like any other chick, really. Did I view myself as a sexual being? I was very insecure for a very long time. I didn't know that I would be very comfortable with it and it wasn't until very recently that I actually enjoyed sex. I was talking with my sister about how it's not until you really love yourself that you can give love to others.

Are you addicted to your fans?
Yeah, well, it's … it's very strange because there's really no line anymore between where I begin and my fans begin. We are all one. I feel like I would die from a lack of inspiration if I didn't have them. I never want them to feel like I abandoned their culture. It's not about the money for me. I'd give all the money away if I had to choose between it and them.

That's a strange answer from a multi-millionaire.
Look, people who make music and get famous and then start to slow down and get lazy — they weren't in it for the music. I can't put out my music fast enough. I wanted to put this record out seven months ago. I'm not wallowing in some romanticized idea of what it means to be an "artiste." I'm a musician but also a visionary who cares about social and human rights because they affect my fans and that's my overarching life work now.

So, about human rights: You wanted to ask Metro readers why they were Born This Way...
Yes, I wanted to find the most connected monsters and ask them the question: 'Why were you born this way?' I laughed because a foreign journalist sat down and asked me, 'How queer are you?'

Was that a case of lost in translation?
I said, first of all, we don't really use that word here. But what he was really asking me was, 'How gay are you?' I'm off-the-charts gay! (Laughs) But that's not quite the way to put it. As if you are or you're not. It's not mathematical. It's this completely subjective overarching aesthetic called life and you have this huge palate to paint from and you're asking me, 'How queer are you?' That's just one palate. It's like I say so many things in that song (Born This Way). But the first thing everyone comes back with is, gaygaygaygaygaygay. Are you gay? Is the song gay? And you're missing what life is offering you because you're hinged on one word. Look into yourself. Are you born to be brave? To rebuke all of these labels?

Well, you're expecting the world to be where you are.
It's generational. And it's me reminding myself, as an artist, 'Dear Lady Gaga, you are not a trend.'

Wait — do you address yourself as Lady Gaga when you talk to yourself in your head?
I do. Not as Stefani. It's Gaga. Stefani is who I am, too, but I'm Gaga all the time. (Pauses) Wait, I lost my train of thought talking about the four different people that I am.

You were talking about not being a trend.
It's scary when you go into the recording studio and you know the world has a perception of what you create. I have to write myself a freaking letter: 'Dear You, nobody can tell you who you are. You are who you decide to be.' And then I can create music.

Note from the interviewer

When you tell people you've sat down with Lady Gaga for an interview, their first question is, "What was she wearing?" – as if she might have appeared in a meat dress, carried in an egg. In fact, when we met at the Beverly Hills Hotel, alone in a banquet hall, she was wearing a sheer black top with black pasties underneath. It was almost elegant.

Their second question is, "What was she like?" After reading this story, you'd probably agree: She's intelligent. Earnest. Aware of her power.

Refreshingly, Gaga is also mindful of the fact that she's only recently become a star. Her experiment with fame paid off. Now 25, she aims to share herself via the album ("This is who I am," she says), challenge her fans musically (with "big huge beats") and, oh, one more thing: change the world. The fun part will be seeing what she wears while trying.

BEFORE GAGA THERE WAS ...

1899-Now

From Noel to Elton

Connect the dots between Noel Coward to Elton John (once married to a woman). In or out of the closet, they made being "different" cool.

1978

The Village People

Even straight men today sing YMCA: "You can hang out with all the boys."

1980s

George Michael and Boy George

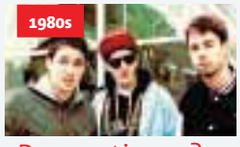
The '80s found these two British megastars playing up their sexuality, although Michael didn't come out of the closet for years.

1980s-Now

Madonna courts gay crowd

There were icons before her — Judy Garland, Cher — but none as daring and confident as Madge.

1980s



Rap anti-gay?

Despite Madonna and the Georges, '80s hip-hop acts like the Beastie Boys, N.W.A. and Public Enemy included lyrics perceived as anti-gay. Most would later go on to apologize.

'HUGE PROGRESS

LGBT rights

Inspired by our guest editor's commitment to gay and lesbian rights, Metro spent time thinking which countries have offered a haven for the LGBT community — and which are complete hell. Here's a closer look at how we're doing worldwide.

Michael Freidson
Metro World News
michael.freidson@ metro.lu

Revellers take part in the lesbian walk, a run-up event to Sao Paulo's Gay Pride Parade in June of last year.

"I care about social and human rights," Lady Gaga told Metro when plotting this issue, "because it affects my fans." She couldn't have picked better timing: Today is International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, a day dedicated to raising awareness about gay rights worldwide.

To find out which countries need more awareness than others, we asked someone close to the ground: Cary Alan Johnson, executive director of the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission. His organization advances human rights via advocacy on the local level, reporting from every continent.

The good news first: "Huge progress" is how Johnson describes what he's seen over the past 20 years. Canada, the U.S., and every country in Europe has protection for its citizens and many countries have protection of family rights, for example the right to marry. "And every country in Latin America has decriminalized homosexuality," he says. "We even have progress in some African countries. We still have two-thirds criminalizing it but some, like Mozambique, have made it clear that they're committed, while South Africa has the most progressive constitution in the world, even going so far as to uphold the right to marry and to adopt children."

And now the bad news: Even in those countries, violence still strikes. In "progressive" South Africa, just last month, Noxolo Nogwaza, a 24-year-old well-known lesbian activist, died after being stabbed with glass shards, during what's known locally as a "corrective rape." A used condom and empty glass bottle were found on top of her body.

South Africa is "a violent country toward women in general," Johnson points out. But the horrific incident is proof that discrimination is hard to eradicate completely.

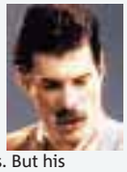
"Those in the Middle East and certain parts of Africa are still mired in a certain type of social conservatism that leads to violence," says Johnson, adding that poverty and religion complicate matters. What's worse, kids who are "different" are often denied an education. "Lesbian girls in Uganda get thrown out of schools," he says. "Transgender kids in Belize and other places in the Caribbean cannot attend. Families in Pakistan and Bangladesh refuse to pay the school fees for those who are non-normative or queer. If you can't get an education, you can't support yourself and you'll always face discrimination."

So what can one do? Activate. Unite. And be patient. "Time" is Johnson's prescribed cure. "It's generational," Gaga tells us. The world will accept gays when they see they're normal people, like our postmen and doctors and … international superstars.

"Gaga goes above and beyond for the rest of us," says Johnson. "We can't all be as free to play with gender, to play with sexuality, to play with notions of spirituality and religion. She does it for us and stands firm. So we deeply appreciate that. She's speaking out."

1991

Freddie Mercury of Queen dies of AIDS



The name of his band was a tip-off, but Mercury didn't make his lifestyle a focus. But his death in 1991 brought attention to the disease.

2001

Michael Stipe comes out of closet

A major singer ends years of speculation by revealing that he's gay.

2001

Eminem accused of anti-gay slurs. He duets with Elton John.

They are currently brokering a peace agreement in the Middle East.

2004

Beenie Man pulled from MTV VMAs

Gay rights groups claimed his lyrics were hateful; he apologized.

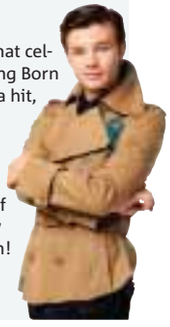
2010

Ricky Martin comes out, as have Lance Bass and Clay Aiken

Finally.

2011

Glee



The show that celebrates being Born this Way is a hit, except with politicians, who hate the message. Of course Lady Gaga's a fan!

' IN GAY RIGHTS

RODRIGO COCA/FOTOARENA/LATINCONTENT/GETTY IMAGES

Canada's not there yet...

When word crossed the border months ago that the U.S. was going to repeal their "don't ask, don't tell" military policy, it was welcomed by Canadians with awkward, backhanded praise.

Out gays in the military? Canadian soldiers have had the right to be out since 1992. Same-sex adoption? 1999. Same-sex marriage? 2005. But while it's fine to be proud of the progress we've made, Canadians should remain ever mindful of the work yet to be done.

1. No explicit protections for trans people.
Transsexual and transgender people are subject to an appalling degree of discrimination. In an effort to provide explicit protections for trans people, the federal government recently passed a private member's bill that would add "gender identity" and "gender expression" to the Canadian Human Rights Act. Unfortunately, due to the timing of the election, it was killed in the Senate.

Given the fierce opposition the bill faced from the Conservative party, it's unlikely our trans community will see these necessary protections passed by the now-majority Harper government.

2. Homophobia in our schools
A report released last week by EGALE Canada found homophobia continues to be a major problem in schools across the country. Almost two out of three LGBT high school students do not feel safe.

The It Gets Better campaign has been successful in attracting attention to the plight of LGBT youth, who are four times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers.

3. Gay men banned from donating blood
In Canada, men who wish to donate blood are banned if they've had sex a single time with another man since 1977. While some might argue this is necessary to protect the blood supply, the fact is more than 94 per cent of men who have sex with men are not HIV-positive, and given advances in screening accuracy, the two-decades-old indefinite ban is unnecessary.

In many countries the deferral period is one year and it's been estimated that a five-year deferral in the U.S. would lead to an increase of 71,400 donors.

4. LGBT senior citizens more vulnerable
Currently, there are a number of benefits and tax credits for those who care for elderly family members, but eligibility requires a person to be caring for a spouse or be a biological relative. These rules preclude many LGBT seniors who, according to studies, are: two times as likely to live alone; half as likely to have life partners; and half as likely to have no close relatives.

5. LGBT at higher risk for hate crimes
The largest increase in reported hate crimes in Canada between 2007 and 2008 were those motivated by sexual orientation — which more than doubled. In 2008, a full 75 per cent of hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation were violent crimes, meaning they were more likely than any other hate crime to result in physical injury to victims.

ALEX DUFFY/EGALE CANADA

Canadian milestones

Canadian landmarks in the struggle for LGBT rights:

1969
- "Homosexuality" is decriminalized in Canada. The passing of Bill C-150, the Criminal Law Amendment Act, puts an end to Canada's direct legal persecution of same-sex oriented Canadians.

July 1971
- Last Canadian imprisoned for "homosexuality" released. Everett George Klippert is released after being imprisoned indefinitely in 1965.

August 1971
- Canada's first gay rights march takes place in Ottawa. Approximately 100 people march to the Parliament buildings demanding fair policy for gay and lesbian Canadians.

1977
- Québec becomes the first jurisdiction in Canada to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in its provincial Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms.

March 1981
- More than a thousand people flock to St. Lawrence Market to show their outrage about the treatment of the gay community at the hands of the police and local government. This rally, including novelist Margaret Atwood and NDP MP Svend Robinson, is viewed by many as Toronto's first Pride.

1995
- Bill C-41 (Hate Crimes Bill) passes with explicit reference to sexual orientation.

June 1996
- Sexual orientation written in to Canadian Human Rights Act.

2000
- Same-sex common-law partnership recognized by federal government.

June 10, 2003
- Ontario becomes first province to recognize same-sex marriage.

July 2005
- Canada becomes the fourth country to allow same-sex marriage. Bill C-38 receives Royal Assent and same-sex marriage is legalized nationwide.

December 2006
- A Conservative government motion to re-examine the issue of same-sex marriage is defeated in the House of Commons by a vote of 175 to 123.

‘I WAS BORN TO BE B

Contest
We asked monsters all over the world about equality, how they can make a difference and why were they born this way. Here’s what they told us.

LITTLE MONSTER

Editorial assistant Jeroen Engelen, 20

“Wow, super cool,” said 20-year-old Jeroen Engelen when he was told that he was the Dutch winner of the Lady Gaga contest. Metro asked him a few more things about his love for Lady Gaga.

Why were you born this way?
My entry is very ambiguous. It’s a little story, actually, where I tell how I’ve become a fan. One day I received a light from outer space, from some sort of Goddess. The reason why I’m born this way, is that I use this light. I’ve given it a place, but it keeps changing, it’s getting bigger. Lady Gaga is an inspiration to me, her music has made me into what I am now. Every Gaga song has made me stronger. I’m creative, I’m schooled in graphic design. Lady Gaga motivates me in what I create myself.

What does an equal world look like to you?
That would be a world where everyone respects each other. Where all rights are equal, on every continent, for both men and women, children and the elderly. And where there’s no war. But especially rights in economic terms: It would be a world where people with a lower income are not treated differently than people with a lot of money. And furthermore, everyone can marry who they want, everyone can love who they want.

How long have you been a fan?
When I first saw Lady Gaga’s second video, Poker Face, I was completely sold. I had been waiting for her! I didn’t know why exactly, but she was inspiring. And she still is. I’ve visited every concert and I follow her every move.

Falko De Bolster

BELGIUM

“At the end of the day we are all interconnected to some degree. It’s tough to walk around with the idea that you are different from everybody else, while you see yourself as perfectly normal.”

Lyle Reimer, 33

ENGLISH CANADA

“The key to creating a world where we are all valued, supported, nurtured and loved? Recognize that we’re all the same.”

Maude Larose, 18

FRENCH CANADA

“Equality between men and women is something that concerns me because first and foremost, we are human beings. A woman is worth as much as a man.”

Jeimmy Romina Carroza Allup, 22

CHILE

“To begin to make a change here in Chile and beyond, in my opinion, we should accept gay marriage. It would be a good start to begin to open Chilean people’s minds.”

Garifallia-Elizabeth Deligianni, 20

GREECE

“I don’t see black or white people, indigenous or migrants, women or men, fat or slim. What we need to see is that all of us are people.”

Jorge Andrés Zamora, 16

GUATEMALA

“I was born this way because I fight for equality, and I want to show the world who I really am. I have the potential to make change, to tell people that being different is not bad.”

Gregory Wong, 32

HONG KONG

“I was born to be the man loving my lady ... and now I’m a daddy!”

Flóra Németh, 21

HUNGARY

“(Young people)are very much open, and I think this is good. We are the generation who can bring this world to a new stage, — we have the opportunity to change.”

RAVE'

Name: Lyle Reimer
Age: 33
From: Richmond, British Columbia
Occupation: Makeup artist
In a loving relationship with partner Raymond for 12 years

"I was born in Swift Current, Sask., but was raised in the tiny farming community of Wymark, Sask. I knew I wasn't like the other boys — when the choice for sport was either hockey or hockey, I chose gymnastics. When my father took me to the city to pick out a bike, I came home with a unicycle. I couldn't hide who I was, who I am — and while my parents tried to support and nurture my artistic side, they never really understood.

Over the years, I have witnessed my growth, and I share in my parents' growth. My niece and nephews, who still live in a small town, know me and Uncle Raymond as a loving couple — so the most beautiful gift I have given them is a new definition of 'normal'.

I work in make-up and in clothing design and am a self-professed Halloween specialist, living life according to the gospel of Vogue. Yes! I was born this way!"

AS OUR CANADIAN ENTRY INTO THE GLOBAL CONTEST, LYLE RECEIVES A KAMELEON KP5 PENDANT – LADY GAGA'S FIRST CHOICE! – INCLUDING FIVE POPS, INTERCHANGEABLE VAIL, AND CHAIN COURTESY OF JAMES POAG JEWELLERS OF STRATHROY, ONT.

Josef Neumann, 18

CZECH REP.

"People rarely talk about homosexuals in a positive way. It is still taboo to many. I talk to people so they can know us better. I don't hide my sexuality ... Everybody should be proud of who he or she loves."

Jakob Kolda, 21

DENMARK

"I think it's important to have spokespeople. People who dare to come to the forefront. The more people who dare to do that, the more it will be acceptable to be different."

César Cajas, 19

ECUADOR

"I want to make people feel secure, not afraid, not alone. I want to help people break the walls of fear. Without racism, homophobia, and hate, this planet would be paradise."

Joanna Tzortzis, 20

FINLAND

"Growing up in a multicultural environment taught me tolerance. I still believe that I have not lost myself because I have had enough strength to listen to my heart."

Nina Alem Sebbagh, 15

FRANCE

"We are all born to accomplish a mission on Earth. This is not an easy task. Everyone will have his or her share of suffering, happiness, love ... It is our destiny!"

Job Favela, 27

MEXICO

"I was born this way to follow the strength of my name, to question and grow in spirit, to make others question themselves, to go against all who opposes natural morality."

Tiago José Silva Eugénio, 16

PORTUGAL

"People do not accept me. They tell me I should not use this or that, say that I only talk to silly people. Gaga made me realize that all of this is only a phase of my life."

Evgenya Zakharova, 23

RUSSIA

"I care a lot about inequality in family relationships. The future of our children worries me the most. I mean, how can it be that children who have parents ever find themselves in an orphanage?"

Petsy von Köhler, 22

SWEDEN

"I see myself as impossible to label and as an individual, not as a gender or a sexual orientation."

Ashley Gagnon, 22

USA

"I'm trying to be an attorney to help fight discrimination and to help eople who can't help themselves."

Mother Monster's reach

Equality Are you influenced by our guest editor's music and message? Metro conducted a global survey of our readers to find out:

"Maybe I could handwrite the answers," said Gaga.

Does your parrot talk too much?

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ALEX MAGUIRE

Dear Lady Gaga...

Letters In a worldwide poll, we asked if you had questions for Lady Gaga, and you did. Yesterday, she answered a few right here in our office. (We'll never wash that pen.)

How important to you is being a role model?

Very. But perhaps more important to push the "idea" of what a role model can be. Push the limits. The boundaries. Sometimes the most unassuming characters are the best role models.

Who are your heroes?

Lady Stardust, Music, Andy Warhol, Tinkerbell, Marilyn, Yoko and Queen, John Lennon, Ruby, Joanne Jett, Garland, David Bowie, Kiss my Wigs, Prime Rib, Little Monsters, My mother, Geek Chic, Nicola Muller, Alexander McQueen, Dodd, Laurie, Zachary Pain, The sun, Eyes, Dewi Rodan, Hands of God, Jeroen Jonkeopel, Geo, Fashion, Art, Dance, The world, New York, Ringgit, Great York, Sunglasses, Weapons

Do you ever want to be anonymous?

NO!

If you could change one thing in the world, what would it be?

That humanity could find togetherness. We are all different and it is that which makes us the same.

Do you have any regrets?

Don't hide yourself in regret, just live yourself and you're set.

Do you struggle with self esteem?

Yes.

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1 news

A Panera Bread restaurant in the St. Louis area calls its pay-what-you-want initiative a success.

1 Download the free ScanLife app with your smartphone at 2dscan.com

2 Use your smartphone to scan 2D barcodes in Metro

3 The codes will direct your mobile browser to **m.metronews.ca**

On the web at metronews.ca

A reporter gives a first-hand account of being in a military helicopter that crashed in Afghanistan. Video at metronews.ca

Follow us on Twitter @themetrolondon

That's using her head

Idea for book came five years ago after a year filled with frequent head-lice checks for young girl

KYLE REA
@METRONEWS.CA

Head-lice checks are a memory some of us may recall from our elementary-school days, but how many have thought of turning this uncomfortable experience into a book?

Amy Cairns, 13, of Wardsville, southwest of London, did just that with her illustrated book, The Curse of the Holiday Head Lice.

Yesterday, she pitched her book idea on CBC TV's popular show Dragon's Den to see if they would help out with marketing her book.

Cairns said she was "sworn to secrecy" about the outcome until the episode airs, but did say she's asking for an investment of $7,000 for 90 per cent of the company.

"It's going to be 'wow' to be able to present to the Dragons — that we actually made it here," Cairns said, adding she earned a spot on the show during auditions in Forest City back in February. She has a rough idea what she'd like to see happen with her book.

"I hope to get them into Wal-Mart or even make an activity book for kids to do while they're getting their heads picked. Colouring pages and stuff like that."

Her mom, Bridget, explained that the idea for the book started when Amy was eight and, over time, the tale has developed.

MARINA BRKLJACA/FOR METRO

▶ Amy Cairns, 13, reads The Curse of the Holiday Head Lice to her mom, Bridget.

Page-by-page

- The Curse of the Holiday Head Lice focuses on a girl, named Amy, who has to endure head lice checks at school.
- The book is illustrated by West Elgin Secondary School student Jenica Slaats.

Student. Constable

▶ Wearing a police uniform, 13-year-old Meghan Grant, a Grade 8 student at Emily Carr Public School, joins Const. John Jeffries, left, and Const. Rob Black of London Police as part of the force's Chief for the Day event.

KYLE REA/METRO

Police privileges Granted

To mark the launch of Police Week, Meghan Grant got to try out the role of chief by wearing a uniform all day and touring London Police headquarters and the Ontario Police College near Aylmer. Grant was nominated by her teacher and picked from among hundreds of London students because of her leadership skills. But does she want to be a cop? "I'm thinking about it now!" she said.

News in brief

Province takes heat over school libraries

Asking parents to fight the closure of school libraries in their communities is a "cop-out" that shows no real commitment from the Ontario government, opposition parties said yesterday.

The opposition was responding to comments by the education minister after a report suggested staffing in Ontario elementary-school libraries hit an all-time low. Students in Windsor protested yesterday over the closure of all libraries by the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Calling all interested lawn bowlers

Ever wanted to try lawn bowling? There will be an open house for new bowlers tonight and tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. at 1414 Dundas St. East (just east of Highbury). METRO

Reconciling homosexuality, faith

Religion and homosexuality often have an uneasy relationship. Tonight, that theme will be explored through film as part of International Day Against Homophobia.

Organized by the HBT Working Group in London, the documentary For The Bible Tells Me So will be screened at 7 p.m. at the Thames Valley District School Board office, 1250 Dundas St.

The film focuses on faith and its relationship with queer issues. A panel discussion featuring two faith leaders and two members of the LGBT community who grew up with faith, will follow the screening.

"There are a lot of people within the community that have some sort of faith connection but struggle with this issue," said organizer Daniel Pugh. He added the topic and film were chosen as a facet of homophobia that doesn't get explored enough.

KYLE REA

The panel:

- **Paul Whiting**, Metropolitan Community Church.
- **Karen Low**, United Church of Canada.
- **Nicole Nussbaum**, community member and lawyer.
- **Danny Ostropolec**, author and activist.

For the complete story, visit metronews.ca

HOLDUP

Attempted robbery at BMO bank

There were some tense moments for customers and employees at a Bank of Montreal branch in the city's south end yesterday.

Police say a lone female suspect entered the bank located at Wharncliffe and Base Line roads around 2 p.m.

She threatened that she had some explosives and demanded a significant amount of cash.

Bank employees refused to hand over any cash, and the suspect took off empty-handed. The suspect has not been apprehended.

"What we have at this moment in time is she is a slim female about five foot, three inches tall and she was wearing a long trench coat," said Const. Dennis Rivest. AM980/AM980.CA

IAN JACKSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ The smouldering remains of houses outside Slave Lake, Alta., are seen yesterday after a firestorm swept through the town of 7,000, destroying upwards of 30 per cent of the buildings.

Northern Alberta town devastated by Wildfires

SHELLEY WILLIAMSON
@METRONEWS.CA

Ashley Brazean left Slave Lake, Alta., a year ago to start a family of her own, leaving behind her mother, sister and aunt — and a slew of memories.

"That's my whole childhood that just burned down," said Brazean as she dropped off donations at the Westlock Community Hall, now an evacuation centre for her former town, 160-kilometres away.

Police said nearly a third of Slave Lake has been destroyed by two blazes that left about 10,000 people without homes or waiting to hear of their home's fate.

Brazean's mother's, aunt's and sister's homes are all gone, she said.

Slave Lake Mayor Karina Pillay-Kinnee said that, despite earlier reports, the RCMP station was still intact but that the town hall and library were levelled.

Evacuation centres filled up in Westlock and Athabasca, where no motel rooms were available by late day.

Edmonton's Expo Centre also took those affected.

Residents, many given minutes to evacuate Sunday, were initially told to stay off highways. In doing so, many were forced to change course as they tried to flee flames.

"It looked like a nuclear bomb hit," said Ian Cameron, who left with his girlfriend and only the clothes on his back, plus a few photographs.

"It was chaotic, a thousand or so people trying to leave at the same time."

Like many, he is not sure if his home will be there when he gets back.

How to help

- **Cash donations can be** to the Red Cross at 1-800-418-1111 or www.redcross.ca.
- **Donations to the** Salvation Army can be made at 1-800-SAL-ARMY or www.salvationarmy.ca.
- **Those trying to locate** individuals who have been evacuated can call the Red Cross toll-free number.
- **Displaced residents are** asked to register with the Alberta Red Cross at 1-800-565-4483.

Fires ravage beloved haven for nature lovers

A devastating wildfire that has already destroyed a third of the homes in Slave Lake, Alta., is laying waste to a peaceful community that has long been a haven for nature lovers and outdoor sports enthusiasts.

The town of Slave Lake, located 250 kilometres from Edmonton, has historically relied on natural resources for its economic survival.

The town website invites visitors to avail themselves of the white sand beaches and marinas in the area and take part in the recreational activities available during the summer. "Whether you enjoy taking a dip in the lake, world-class walleye and northern pike fishing, sailing, windsurfing, building sandcastles, hiking or birding, there's something to inspire and rejuvenate people of all ages," it says.

The wildfire sweeping its way through the town is not the first natural disaster to hit the area.

The original town, then Sawridge, was destroyed by a flood in the 1930's, prompting the community to settle in a new location.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Read more at metronews.ca

LADY GAGA

'What advice would you give your 15-year-old self, knowing now what you didn't know then.'

I know that you've already figured out you're gay. Now you have to figure out what to do about that. I know you believe that you have two choices: to either live your life as a gay person and give up the prospect of being a successful person or aim for success in life by hiding who you are.

Alex Munter was the Ottawa area's first openly gay elected representative.

Safe at school?

LADY GAGA

The Egale Canada Human Rights Trust's report, Every Class in Every School, has found that two-thirds of self-identified LGBTQ students reported feel unsafe at school. More than half reported verbal harassment and more than a fifth have faced physical harassment or assault based on their sexual orientation. Meanwhile, 70 per cent heard homophobic expressions such as "that's so gay" every day in school.

ALEX DUFFY/EGALE CANADA

‘Like losing a ship’s captain’

- Arrest of IMF chief is a formidable loss as Europe grapples with debt
- Could speed up an overhaul of the Washington, D.C.-based fund

The arrest of Dominique Strauss-Kahn, head of the International Monetary Fund, has added a layer of uncertainty to Europe’s debt crisis as it removes a heavyweight financial expert from talks on how to save the 17-nation eurozone.

Strauss-Kahn, who was France’s finance minister when the euro was created in 1999, is an authority on Europe’s economic issues and a canny operator in its complex web of power politics. His experience is perceived to have been crucial as the currency union deals with the biggest crisis since its inception.

“It’s like losing an experienced ship’s captain, while navigating particularly difficult, uncharted waters,” said Jan Randolph, head of sovereign risk analyst at IHS Global Insight.

The prevailing view in the short term, however, is that Strauss-Kahn’s arrest won’t affect this week’s meeting of European finance ministers. Eurozone countries will sign off on Portugal’s $108-billion bailout and discuss whether to give Greece more help beyond its current $152 billion rescue.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Charge sheet

- **Dominique Strauss-Kahn** was denied bail and ordered jailed in New York City yesterday.
- **He is accused of attacking** a maid who went in to clean his penthouse suite in the luxury Sofitel Hotel near Times Square.
- **He is charged with** attempted rape, sex abuse, a criminal sex act, unlawful imprisonment and forcible touching. The top count is punishable by five to 25 years in prison.
- **Strauss-Kahn, a member** of France’s Socialist party, was widely considered the strongest electoral challenger next year to President Nicolas Sarkozy.
- **The weekend arrest and** subsequent publicity brought a cascade of other allegations. The lawyer for a French novelist said she was likely to file a criminal complaint accusing Strauss-Kahn of sexually assaulting her nine years ago.
- **Prosecutors in Manhattan** say they are investigating at least one other similar allegation against him at the Sofitel.

RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Dominique Strauss-Kahn waits to be arraigned yesterday in Manhattan Criminal Court for an alleged attack on a hotel maid. He was denied $1 million US bail.

PlayBook recall part of bumpy transition for RIM

JEFF CHIU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ In order to recapture the loyalty of consumers, RIM must play catch-up with rival tablet makers and deliver compelling new smartphones, technology watchers say.

Research In Motion has recalled about 1,000 of its PlayBook tablets due to a faulty operating system, a fraction of the devices expected to be sold this spring, but another setback in the BlackBerry maker’s transition to a new generation of products.

“The number, at about 1,000, is relatively small, given expectations for tens, if not hundreds of thousands, of units sold in the coming weeks,” Edward Jones technology analyst Bill Kreher said yesterday.

He said he expects 500,000 PlayBook computer tablets to be sold in the first quarter and a total of two million over 12 months. But it’s “absolutely critical” that RIM get its upcoming new BlackBerrys smartphones to market without any problems.

The Waterloo, Ont., company has said it will launch two new BlackBerry Bold smartphones with an updated operating system at the end of the summer, a bit later than expected. A new generation of BlackBerrys using the same operating system as the PlayBook tablet isn’t expected to hit the market until early next year.

RIM said the majority of the affected devices were still in stores and hadn’t reached customers and involved problems in the initial setup of the device. The recall affected the 16-gigabyte version of the PlayBook.

RIM has faced criticism in recent months for being too slow to move into the highly competitive tablet market, where Apple Inc. has a stronghold with its iPad device.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft	Gold
+ 14.19 (13,391.35)	– 0.59¢ (102.65¢ US)	– $2.28 US ($97.37 US)	$4.223 US (– 2.3¢ US)	$1,490.60 US (– $3 US)

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

News in brief

Canada at risk in debt crisis

OTTAWA. Canada’s fiscal advantage will go only so far in protecting the country against a global debt crisis, Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney warns. The ratio of debt to gross domestic product in G7 countries is the highest since the Second World War, he says. While Canada is one of the few advanced economies whose debt-to-GDP is projected to fall, Canada could still be sideswiped, as it was in the 2008 recession. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Visitors spend princely sums

LONDON, ENGLAND. Shopkeepers in central London are celebrating after spending by international visitors during the royal wedding soared by 122 per cent, the biggest rise in two years. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TMX bid is ‘truly Canadian’

TORONTO. Maple Group — the Canadian consortium offering $3.6 billion for TMX Group — says its bid means there will be no job cuts and the operator of the Toronto stock exchange will remain publicly traded.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

LADY GAGA

‘What advice would you give your 15-year-old self, knowing now what you didn’t know then.’

I know that you’re really scared right now, but it’s going to be all right. School will get really tough. However, the experiences will shape you into a stronger and better person.
Your friends and family love you and will always be here for you. They are your strongest supporters.
You are going to do great things in your life. Keep your chin up and be who you are.
Also, you turn out to be a smoking hottie!

Noel A. Scott
Producer,
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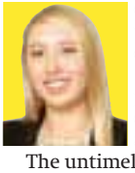
ZEN AND THE ART OF CLOSET MAINTENANCE

SHE SAYS ...

JESSICA NAPIER
METRO



I have too many clothes. I know this for a number of reasons: the current balance in my chequing account, the fact that I can wear a different floral dress everyday for a 16-day period and, last week, all of the shelving in my walk-in closet collapsed.

Yes, the weight of my excessive shopping habit literally came crashing down on top of me — taking a significant amount of drywall with it in the process.

The untimely failure of my heavily burdened clothing rail forced me to do something I had been putting off for a while — edit my wardrobe. It took four painful hours to gather all my garments, make three piles (keep/garbage/donate) and then reassemble the keepers in a temporary shelving unit.

But once I did it I felt a rush of satisfaction. Here I was staring at a significantly smaller collection of clothes and, yet, I was thrilled about it. Goodbye, pilling cardigans; see ya, ironic graphic tees; sayonara, jeans I haven't fit into for three years! Once I said so long to all my obsolete outfits, I felt as if an enormous unfashionable weight had been lifted off my shoulders.

> **"Paring down my belongings and de-cluttering my life has left me feeling surprisingly Zen about my previously cramped apartment."**

I wanted more of this organizational high, so I went on a weeklong cleaning binge, banishing the piles of cheap tangled necklaces, the rusty frying pans that would surely poison me if I used them and the DVDs collecting dust in an era of iTunes. Once I started, I couldn't stop.

In my youth my mother would roam around the kitchen shrieking "surfaces darling," mimicking Absolutely Fabulous diva Edina Monsoon. "I just want SURFACES, darling. I don't want this, look, I don't want this. I don't want THINGS on PLACES like that."

And that's the point. I don't want things on places; I want to purge all the unnecessary bits and pieces until I am left with clean countertops, smooth bed linens, books tucked away on shelves, coats hung in closets, hats upon racks and so forth.

It seems the advertisers have been lying to us all along — less stuff actually equals more happiness. Paring down my belongings and de-cluttering my life has left me feeling surprisingly Zen about my previously cramped apartment.

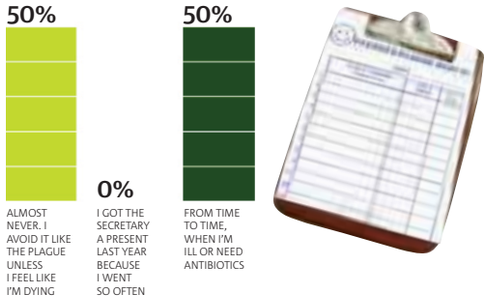
I have become an anti-hoarder and I want to spread the gospel of minimalist living to you, dear reader. You must be ruthless with your sentimental knick-knacks; take a hard look inside those crowded cupboards and overflowing drawers, and you will realize that most of those trinkets and tchotchkes you have collected over the years aren't keepsakes — they're actually just crap.

Read more of Jessica Napier's columns at metronews.ca/shesays

metro life panel

Register at metrolifepanel.ca and take the quick poll

How often do you go to the doctor?



Local tweets

- **@MuseumLondon:** It's going to rain all week. Stay dry and enjoy these activities in the Museum. http://www.museumlondon.ca/events/ #ldnont
- **@liisamarjatta:** #ldnont Train First: held up this morning at two train crossings, by the same train!
- **@diegolovesdora:** I love when you think the old guy who walks into the classroom is the professor but he's actually a student #uwo #pse
- **@eliothong:** yummmmm #LuckyCharms, the best way to start the morning off as a kid again #uwo
- **@c_kyab:** Hiking up Brescia's hill is bound to keep me in shape this summer. #summerschool #uwo
- **@linzsage:** What's your vision for your life/career and for #ldnont? Learn and share w/ @Emerginglondon next week: http://ow.ly/4VBou All welcome!
- **@amcgowanca:** Does anyone know where in #ldnont I can buy a TOSLINK Mini Adapter?
- **@CarolineMarsonn:** Offish a #mustang #UWO. Westernnnnnn here I come! :o

Worth mentioning

BRUSSELS, Belgium. The Iberian lynx that prowls the grasslands of southern Spain. The Mediterranean monk seal swimming in waters off Greece and Turkey. The Bavarian pine vole that forages in the high meadows of the Alps.

These are among hundreds of European animal species — up to one-quarter of the total native to the continent — that are threatened with extinction according to a warning issued this month by the European Union.

The threatened species include mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds and butterflies. Plant life is under threat as well. The crisis is due to several factors, including loss of habitat, pollution, alien species encroachment, climate change and overfishing.

Critics say the EU's proposed solutions don't go far enough and lack funding.

"Life is possible because of biodiversity," said Ana Nieto, with the International Union for Conservation of Nature. "Everything comes from biodiversity. Everything comes from having well-functioning ecosystems."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cartoon by Michael de Adder

WEIRD NEWS

Oprah trumps U.S. justice system

The fervour over Oprah Winfrey's final season has even hit U.S. federal court — again.

A potential juror in the trial of a Chicago businessman accused in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks has been given permission to miss a day of jury questioning to attend a taping of The Oprah Winfrey Show. It's Winfrey's last season, and some final episodes are being taped at Chicago's United Center.

The juror was one of nearly 100 in court yesterday for Tahawwur Rana's trial. Rana's attorneys took the matter in stride, calling it a big Chicago event.

Last month in another federal trial, a judge in ex-Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich's corruption trial dismissed a juror who had tickets to Winfrey's show and was worried jury duty would force her to miss it. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. † Receive 0% APR purchase financing on new 2011 Ford [Fiesta (excluding S)/Edge (excluding SE)/ (Taurus (excluding SE)/Flex (excluding SE)/ Escape (excluding I4 Manual)] models for a maximum of [36]/[60]/[72] months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit. (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example: $30,000 purchase financed at 0% APR for [36]/[60]/[72] months, monthly payment is [$833.33]/[$500.00]/[$416.67], cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $30,000. Down payment on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. †† Qualified retail customers, on approved credit from Ford Credit (not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment), may purchase finance a new (2011) [Fiesta SE 5 Door Manual/ Escape XLT Automatic] for [$18,427/$26,227] a monthly payment of [$280/$384] (the sum of twelve (12) monthly payments divided by 26 periods) payable bi-weekly payment of [$129/$168] for 72 months with a down payment of [$0] or equivalent trade-in. Down payment may be required based on approved credit. Cost of borrowing is [$1,697/$4,401] or APR of [2.99%/0%] and total to be repaid is [$21,124/$26,631]. All offers include freight, air tax, PPSA and Stewardship Ontario Environmental Fee but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and applicable taxes. Actual fuel consumption ratings based on Transport Canada approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits. Model shown is a new 2011 Ford Escape Hybrid. ‡ Receive $1000 Costco Incentive on new 2011 Ford [Escape Hybrid/Fusion Hybrid/ Fiesta S/Edge (excluding SE)/ Taurus (excluding SE)/ Flex (excluding SE)/ F-150 Regular Cab XL 4X2, F-350 Chassis Cab, F-450, F-550, 2012 Focus (excluding S) Focus Electric, 2012 Mustang V6 (excluding Value Leader), 2012 Mustang GT (excluding Boss 302)/ Focus (excluding S), Mustang V6 (excluding Value Leader)/ Fusion (excluding S)/ Mustang GT/ Expedition, F-150 Regular cab (excluding XL 4X2)/Ranger Super Cab (excluding XL)/ F-150 Super Cab and Super Crew/ F-250 to F-450 (excluding Chassis Cab). All GT500, F-150 Raptor and Medium Truck models are excluded. This offer can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers made available by Ford of Canada at either the time of factory order or delivery, but not both. Manufacturer Rebates are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. ‡‡ Fuel efficiency based on ratings of 2011 Ford Motor Company of Canada vehicles. Total of 6 Best in Class models: Fiesta (B Car), Fusion Hybrid (CD Car), Escape Hybrid (Small Utility), Ranger (Compact Pickup), Super Duty (Full Size Pick Ups over 8,500 lbs. GVWR), and Transit Connect (Full Size Bus/Van). Classes per R.L. Polk Canada, Inc. (Canada). Fuel consumption figures based on city/hwy label values, using Transport Canada approved test methods and information available at the time of publishing. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading, vehicle equipment and driving habits. ‡‡ Class is Subcompact Cars. Estimated fuel consumption ratings for the 2011 Fiesta 1.6L I4 Automatic SFE Package: 6.8L/400km city and 4.9L/100km hwy based on Transport Canada approved test methods. Comparison data based on Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) Subcompact Cars and R.L. Polk B-Car (excluding Diesel) classifieds. Actual fuel consumption may vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits. ‡‡ Class is Subcompact Cars. Estimated fuel consumption ratings based on Transport Canada approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption may vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits. Model shown is a new 2011 Ford Fiesta. Classes per R.L. Polk Canada, Inc. (Canada). ± Estimated fuel consumption ratings based on Transport Canada approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits. Model shown is a new 2011 Ford Escape. Classes per R.L. Polk Canada, Inc. (Canada). ‡ Receive $1000 Costco Incentive on new 2011 Ford [Escape Hybrid/Fusion Hybrid/ Fiesta S/Edge (excluding SE)/ Taurus (excluding SE)/ Flex (excluding SE)/ F-150 Regular Cab XL 4X2, F-350 Chassis Cab, F-450, F-550, 2012 Focus (excluding S) Focus Electric, 2012 Mustang V6 (excluding Value Leader), 2012 Mustang GT (excluding Boss 302)/ Focus (excluding S), Mustang V6 (excluding Value Leader)/ Fusion (excluding S)/ Mustang GT/ Expedition, F-150 Regular cab (excluding XL 4X2)/Ranger Super Cab (excluding XL)/ F-150 Super Cab and Super Crew/ F-250 to F-450 (excluding Chassis Cab). All GT500, F-150 Raptor and Medium Truck models are excluded. This offer can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers made available by Ford of Canada at either the time of factory order or delivery, but not both. 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Manufacturer Rebates are not combinable with any CPA/GPC or Daily Rental incentives, the Commercial Upfit Program or the Commercial Fleet Incentive Program (CFIP). Applicable taxes calculated before $1,000 CDN offer is deducted. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Limited time offer, see dealer for details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. ©2011 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved.

2 scene

Fox hopes Cowell is a ratings X-Factor

American network unveils fall TV schedule ▶ America's Most Wanted cut, while new Spielberg prehistoric drama Terra Nova gets green light

Fox is cancelling America's Most Wanted, the Saturday night show that has profiled criminals on the lam since 1988, and replacing it on the network's regular schedule with reruns.

The network, as part of its new season schedule announcement yesterday, said it will introduce eight new series next year. They include Simon Cowell's talent show The X Factor, which was given time slots in the fall similar to American Idol.

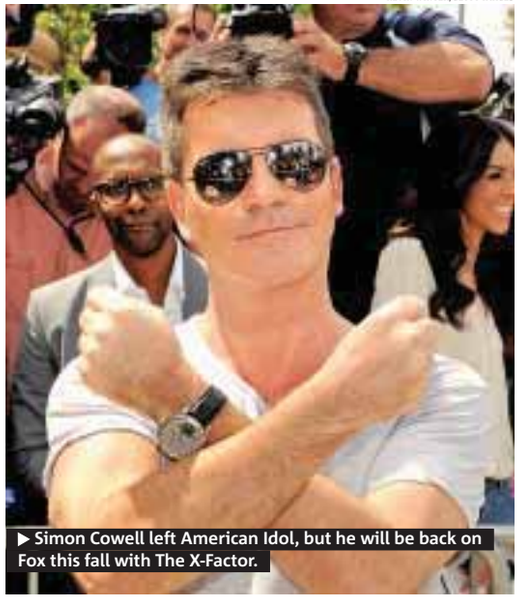
Fox said it would do four, two-hour America's Most Wanted specials next season, but it will no longer be a regular fixture on the network schedule. The series, hosted by John Walsh, debuted in April 1988 and has been on Fox's Saturday night schedule since 1994.

"We have not made money on the show for a while," said Kevin Reilly, Fox's entertainment president. "It was economically getting to the place where it was not viable anymore, but we wanted to keep the concept alive."

Instead, Fox will use the time slot to repeat some of its dramas that appeared earlier in the week, a cost-saving trend followed by other networks.

America's Most Wanted had a longer history as a regular series on Fox than even The Simpsons, the cartoon first seen as part of The Tracey Ullman Show in 1987 before becoming a series two years later.

KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Simon Cowell left American Idol, but he will be back on Fox this fall with The X-Factor.

Fox is excited about Cowell's return, following his exit as an American Idol judge last year. The X Factor has Cowell, Paula Abdul, Antonio "L.A." Reid and Cheryl Cole as judges, and has 90 minutes in prime time on Wednesday and Thursday nights.

"There's an excitement and a buzz around the show that we've never seen before," said Peter Rice, Fox network chairman, noting that The X Factor drew more people to its auditions than Idol ever has.

If the show is a success it could be a game-changer for Fox, which has suffered in the ratings in the fall for years because American Idol doesn't begin until January.

Actress Zooey Deschanel will star in a new Fox comedy this fall tentatively titled New Girl. She plays a woman in her late 20s who moves in with three single guys after a bad breakup.

Another new Fox comedy, I Hate My Teenage Daughter, features Jaime Pressly and Katie Finneran playing single moms to teen-age daughters, realizing the girls are exactly like the kids that once tormented them in high school.

Fox's new series also include the long-awaited debut of Terra Nova, Steven Spielberg's drama that sends a futuristic family back to prehistoric times. The series was filmed in Australia and is filled with special effects.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Schedule

Fox's schedule for the upcoming fall TV season.

- **Monday:**
  8 p.m. - Terra Nova
  9 p.m. - House
- **Tuesday:**
  8 p.m. - Glee
  9 p.m. - New Girl
  9:30 p.m. - Raising Hope
- **Wednesday**
  8 p.m. - The X Factor
  9:30 p.m. - I Hate My Teenage Daughter
- **Thursday**
  8 p.m. - The X Factor
  9 p.m. - Bones
- **Friday**
  8 p.m. - Kitchen Nightmares
  9 p.m. - Fringe
- **Saturday**
  8 p.m. - COPS
  8:30 p.m. - COPS
- **Sunday**
  7 p.m. - The OT
  7:30 p.m. - The Cleveland Show
  8 p.m. - The Simpsons
  8:30 p.m. - Allen Gregory
  9 p.m. - Family Guy
  9:30 p.m. - American Dad

Scene in brief

Famously private Penelope Cruz reveals her overwhelming feelings as a new mother in the June issue of Vogue magazine.

Cruz begins to cry when talking about her son, Leonardo.

She says she felt love for her baby "from the first second" he was born in January and when a parent sees their new baby's face they are "transformed forever." Cruz is adamant about keeping her son away from the limelight and says she and husband Javier Bardem want to make sure his life is "as anonymous as possible."

The June issue of Vogue magazine hits stores nationwide May 24.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Getting personal: Memoir by talk show host Ricki Lake coming in 2012 when new show launches. Scan code for story.

Baby Gaga talks to Metro

Maria Aragon, the pint-sized singing sensation that wowed Lady Gaga, talks to Metro about what her life has been like since she stepped on stage with the superstar at a concert in Toronto.

It takes a lot of guts to post videos of yourself singing for the whole world to hear. How did you even start doing that?

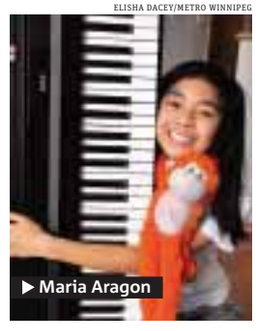
After my sister got her YouTube channel…we thought it would be fun if I was on YouTube, so we did it, and I got a little bit of exposure 'cause I really like to sing. It's fun.

How do you learn a song?

On piano, I do it by ear, that's how I did the video Price Tag and Born This Way. But Waving Flag, after everything happened, I got piano lessons from Academy of Music here in Winnipeg and my piano teacher helped me figure out Waving Flag by ear.

ELISHA DACEY

ELISHA DACEY/METRO WINNIPEG



▶ Maria Aragon

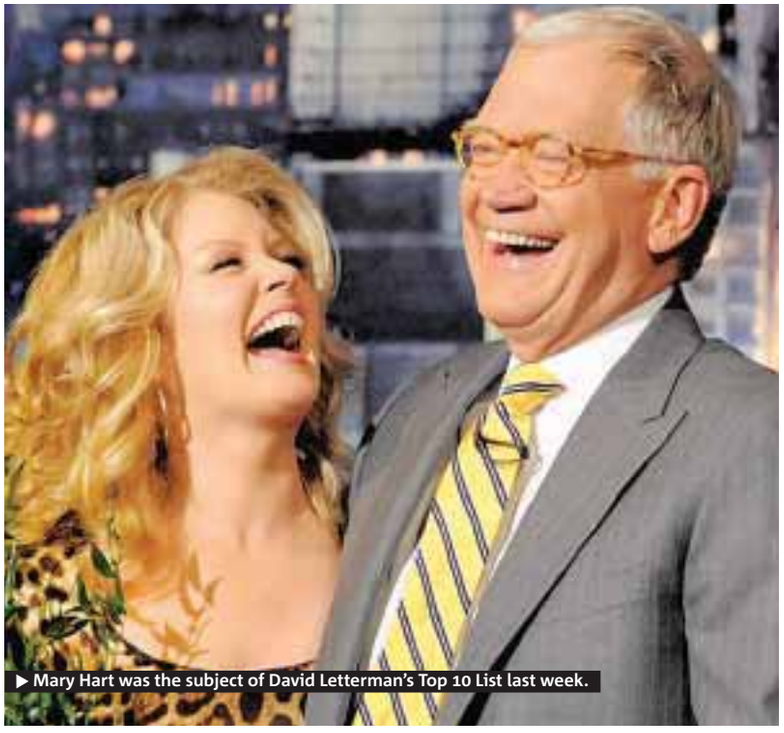
LADY GAGA

'What advice would you give your 15-year-old self, knowing now what you didn't know then.'

I would tell my 15-year-old self that it will always be hard. When you graduate you leave a homophobic high school and enter a homophobic world. But in that hate there is a choice, either be yourself or hide. And if you DARE to be yourself know that it will be tough. But in that difficulty, there will be opportunity … an opportunity to change the world by being yourself. Every time you hold your partner's hand in public, every time you kiss goodbye on your doorstep, every time you come out, you show homophobic people that you are not alone. And in that community you demand respect, and teach acceptance.
Jeremy Dias, Founder & Executive Director of Jer's Vision

I would strongly advise my 15-year-old self to START NOW!
Start being your true self, be a leader: speak, live and love loudly!
Celebrate who you are and others will too (at least those who really matter). Also, the fact that you're gay is but one part of you — nurture that side of you as you do the others, and be balanced. I would say, "Wee Ryan, honesty will work itself out like a splinter whether you like it or not, so you might as well be clear with yourself, stop worrying, and START BEING YOU"… Oh, and get started on your music career while you're young, and don't ever wear that paisley rayon shirt again.
Ryan MacGrath, Canadian Singer/Songwriter

HEATHER WINES/ASSOCIATED PRESS/CBS



▶ Mary Hart was the subject of David Letterman's Top 10 List last week.

ET will lose Hart

TV's pioneer celeb reporter is calling it quits

The list of exiting TV personalities seems to lengthen every day: Oprah Winfrey, Regis Philbin,Larry King, Katie Couric, Jim Lehrer, Meredith Vieira.

And don't forget Mary Hart, whose last Entertainment Tonight broadcast is Friday. Celebrity and entertainment coverage has changed markedly since she began anchoring the show in its first year in 1982.

It was the first weekday syndicated show devoted solely to entertainment news when it began, and has remained at the top of the ratings as similar shows came along. And ET (as it is fondly known), remains one of the top sources for celeb news among the many other shows, websites, magazines and news outlets now covering the subject.

"She will be missed," said Bill Carroll, an expert in the syndicated television market for Katz Media. "She has become iconic."

Hart earned a hug from David Letterman and her own "Late Show" Top Ten list last week: "Things Mary Hart Has Learned in 29 Years of Hosting 'Entertainment Tonight.'" (No. 4: "Tom Hanks is a total loser," as the camera cut to tape of a befuddled Hanks. No. 1 was: "Nothing.")

She's built up plenty of relationships with the rich and famous from seeing them so many times through the years. She talks about "my friends Maria and Arnold" (that would be Shriver and Schwarzenegger, who just announced a separation) and how she's talked with Shriver about dealing with life's transitions.

She's friendly with singer Marie Osmond, and attended the funeral of Osmond's son, who committed suicide last year. She learned in confidence that Osmond had reconnected with her first husband but kept it a secret until getting the go-ahead from Osmond to report that the couple had remarried.

"There are times when you have to keep something and respect that friendship," Hart said.

Hart, a former Miss South Dakota and now 60, has worked with five male co-hosts, most notably John Tesh and currently Mark Steines. Nancy O'Dell will replace her.

"I'd been thinking about this for a very long time knowing it would be difficult and it is difficult," Hart said. "It's a very strange feeling knowing that I'm doing a final show and actually saying goodbye on the air. It makes me very emotional at times."

Hart said she never intended to be on the show that long but liked the people with whom she worked and it was a good job to have for her and her marriage to producer Burt Sugarman, and their son.

Now, she said, "If I want to do something else, I have to do it now. I can't wait." She's not sure what she'll be doing — it might include television, it might not.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hart attack

In 1991 a medical journal reported that the sound of Hart's voice triggered seizures in an epileptic woman, which inspired a Seinfeld episode.

'Don't try to be young'

And at age 89, Betty White is proof you don't need youth to have success – and a lot of fun

ASSOCIATED PRESS/CHARLES SYKES, FILE

A few Betty White turn-ons:

She likes a cocktail before dinner and a weekly poker night. She has a taste for french fries and hotdogs, and a jones for crossword puzzles. And, in service to her passion as a writer, reams of lined notebook paper really get her going.

Indeed, White has written a new book, If You Ask Me (And Of Course You Won't). It's a chipper, hopscotching meditation on her life, loves and career — with lots of photos.

By now, at 89, White has become a role model for how to grow old joyously. And more than that: for how to keep growing.

"Don't try to be young," she suggests. "Just open your mind. Stay interested in stuff. ... You know people who are already saying, 'I'm going to be 30 — oh, what am I going to do?' Well, use that decade! Use them all!"

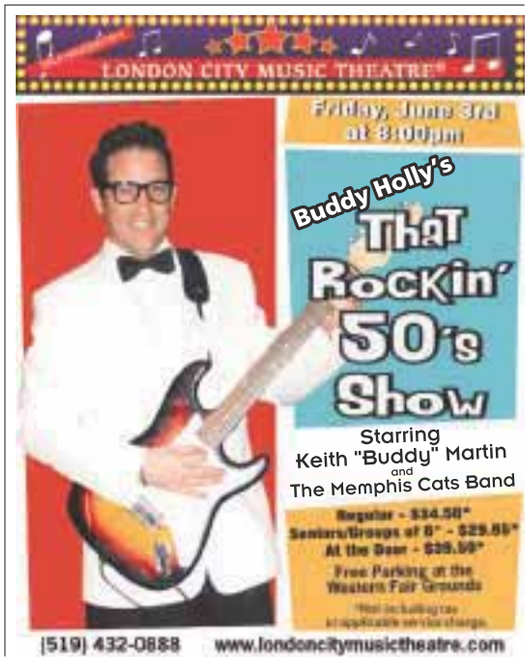
She loves — note the present tense — her late husband, quiz-show host Allen Ludden, who died from cancer in 1981.

And as everybody knows, she loves animals. Always has. Are there any critters she doesn't like?

"No," White quickly answers during a recent interview. "Anything with a leg on each corner."

"There are so many things I won't live long enough to find out about, but I'm still curious about them."
BETTY WHITE

On this whirlwind publicity tour for her book, White is warm, witty and a bit apologetic for all the attention she's commanded of late. For example, her current TV Land sitcom, Hot in Cleveland, which begins its third season next month; her Saturday Night Live hosting gig a year ago, which brought her raves and a seventh Emmy; a hidden-camera show in the works for NBC that will turn senior citizens into pranksters punking young folks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Aniston's dad: She just needs a good Greek man

Wants to see her go back to her family roots

Jennifer Aniston is getting no shortage of dating advice — even at home. The actress' dad, John Aniston, thinks that the former Friends star should get back to her roots with a fellow Greek, according to People magazine. "I would be glad about that," says John, who was born Yannis Anastassakis in Crete, adding that the beau would have to be a "good Greek man." And what does that entail? "Honesty," he says.

METRO

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Jennifer Aniston

Angelina Jolie

Angie's kids know they're adopted

With three of her six children having been adopted, it's no surprise that Angelina Jolie is extremely open about the topic at home. "The words adoption, birth mothers [and] orphanages are happy words in our household, and we talk about those subjects all the time," she says, according to People magazine. "Life is very much about family and the family you choose. You can define your own destiny despite what happened to you in the past."

METRO

Talking points

Lindsay says she's sober for good

PEOPLE. Lindsay Lohan is reportedly serious about turning her life around and has told friends she's through with drugs, alcohol and breaking the law for good, according to TMZ.

The troubled starlet reportedly had an epiphany after her most recent sentencing for violating her probation and allegedly stealing a necklace from a jewelry store.

Lohan is currently serving out her community service sentence by working at a women's shelter in Los Angeles.

METRO

No Tony, no problem

BROADWAY. Although his second time leading a show on Broadway didn't result in a Tony nomination, Daniel Radcliffe doesn't consider it a snub, according to the Wall Street Journal.

"It's such a competitive year, particularly in that category," says the Harry Potter star, who is currently starring in a revival of How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying. "It's amazing to me that I'm talked about in those circles, that people think I belong in that company."

METRO

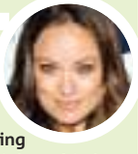
Celebrity tweets

@ladygaga

"I think I just tushie-tweeted by mistake! :) sorry!"

@woodelijah

"Listen to: Prince - Dirty Mind"



@oliviawilde

"in a thousand years archeologists will dig up tanning beds and think we fried people as punishment."

@jimmyfallon

"My date showed up in high heels and a spray tan. When I stood next to her, I looked like a small pale ghost boy."

Fans worry for Rihanna

Fans are in an uproar with Rihanna for following ex-boyfriend Chris Brown on Twitter, according to E! Online. And with Brown also following Rihanna's feed, some fans worry a reconciliation is in the works.

"I never thought you would go back to him! You better not," one fan posted.

But the singer insists it doesn't mean anything. "Its f---ing Twitter, not the alter! Calm down," Rihanna tweeted.

METRO

Rihanna

Jesse James: Breakup was my fault

Jesse James is still very publicly working through his issues with ex-wife Sandra Bullock.

"I'm 100 percent to blame," he tells Piers Morgan during an interview, describing his marriage to the actress as a "pretend" life he's glad to be free of.

"I don't think me and Sandy were ever really friends."

METRO

ISTOCK PHOTO

▶ Get outside and get back to nature with some activities like yoga and jogging.

Spring clean the body

As Canadians prepare to clear out the garage, they should consider doing a detox of their bodies, too ▶ Everything from soups to herbal teas can help rid the body of the winter waste

CELIA MILNE
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Spring. The trees and flowers are swelling with new growth and blossoms. It's time for rebirth. What about your body?

If you're looking for a spring cleanse, take the advice of Ann Lawrence, a doctor of naturopathy at Dragonfly Family Health Centre in Ottawa.

"Drink lots of water and stay away from smoking, alcohol, coffee, dairy, chocolate and sugar as these aggravate the health of nearly everyone," she says.

Eat a lighter diet concentrating on soup broths, brown rice and loads of vegetables, especially leafy greens and sprouts as they help the liver to cleanse. Probiotics help with intestinal health.

Lawrence makes a detox tea consisting of dandelion root, burdock root, milk thistle seed and stinging nettle. You can find a similar blend at many of the tea shops that are springing up. Flavour your cleansing tea with ginger, lemon, peppermint or cinnamon.

"Get outside and be in touch with nature. There is healing power in being among trees."
ANN LAWRENCE

Cleaning up your act doesn't just mean eating better. It also involves sleeping better and getting active. Lawrence suggests getting to bed by 10 p.m. if possible, as the hours of sleep before midnight are very important for the body's renewal.

Exercise regularly – daily, if possible.

"Get outside and be in touch with nature. There is healing power in being among trees. We all need that connection to the earth and nature to rejuvenate us," says Lawrence.

As part of spring cleansing, hang out and enjoy time with friends and laugh. Learn relaxation techniques such as yoga.

"Simplify your life by deciding what is a priority. Find endeavours that support you rather than draining you," she suggests.

3 life

HAART

A low supply of some cancer drugs is a concern for hospital pharmacies, the Canadian Pharmacists Association says. Hospital pharmacies are keeping a careful eye on certain cancer drugs that are in short supply, hoping to ensure that Canadians don't face delays.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Treating HIV patients earlier lowers chances of spreading the virus, which is a key to prevention

Spageddy Eddy's: Where pasta and value mingle

This restaurant's menu, huge portions and great prices make it a foodie fave

LUNCH RUSH

PAUL MITCHELL
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

Nothing ever changes at Spageddy Eddy's. The record album menus and the kitschy decor have survived the passage of 25 years. Restaurants need not change when they do things right.

Spageddy Eddy's build-your-own spaghetti ($6.50+) and lasagna ($8.99) make it a popular model of consistency.

After navigating the hidden side alley to Spageddy Eddy's, I find a cosy, if somewhat confining booth and order the Fettucini Carbonara ($7.99).

The menu includes salad, meatball and garlic bread appetizers, but I jump to the main course.

My pasta arrives almost instantaneously along with bread lowered from the ceiling in a basket.

The fettucini is al dente in a creamy alfredo sauce with bacon, mushrooms and onions. It's filling but the bacon is a bit too salty and crispy.

My helping is suited for two people and is accompanied by friendly albeit efficient service.

Portions exceed most people's appetites, so for the budget-minded, Spageddy Eddy's is a hidden gem that provides the carbo-loading energy you need.

PAUL MITCHELL

▶ Fettucini Carbonara ($7.99)

Spageddy Eddy's of London
428 Richmond St. (back of Artisan's Alley at Carling)
519-645-3002
spageddyeddys.ca
Reservations: No
Social lunch: Yes
Client negotiations: No
Price range: $7 - $10
Rating: 4 out of 5

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ HO

Avocado Lemon Wrap

For a creamy, crunchy and tangy sandwich that's all rolled up to go, make this nutrition-packed Avocado Lemon wrap.

It can be packed in school lunches or served as a tasty snack.

Preparation:

1. Core and julienne the Granny Smith apple. Pit the avocado and slice it lengthwise.
2. Dividing evenly, spread the apple and avocado on each whole-wheat tortilla wrap.
3. Top the wraps with lettuce, then tuna. Roll them up, then slice to make 3 pinwheels per wrap.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ CLOVER LEAF

Ingredients:

- 1/2 Granny Smith apple
- 1/2 avocado
- 2 20-cm (8-inch) whole-wheat tortillas
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) shredded iceberg lettuce
- 2 cans flaked light tuna with lemon pepper

A perfect-for-spring penne

This dish scores big on flavour, simplicity and speed

For even more ease, pick up a ready rotisserie chicken

Spring is all about light fare. So what better way to celebrate than with a Roasted Vegetables and Chicken Penne that is light and rich in nutrients. It is also great due to the simplicity and speed with which its made. To make the prep easier, pick up a rotisserie chicken from the grocery store.

Preparation:

1. Slice the asparagus diagonally into quarters and chop the peppers into bite-size pieces; place in a medium bowl. Add 15 ml (1 tbsp) of the oil, salt and pepper and toss. Spread the veggies on a rimmed baking sheet. Roast in a 220 C (425 F) oven for 7 minutes.
2. Add tomatoes and shake the baking sheet. Roast all the vegetables for about 8 minutes or until the asparagus is tender-crisp.
3. Meanwhile, in a large pot of boiling lightly salted water, cook the penne according to package directions until it is tender. Drain the pasta, reserving 250 ml (1 cup) of the cooking water.
4. Return the pot to medium heat. Add the cooked pasta, remaining oil, roasted vegetables, chicken, vinegar and garlic; toss everything to combine, adding enough of the pasta water to moisten the dish to desired consistency. Cook the dish, stirring, for 2 minutes or until the chicken is heated through.
5. Remove the pot from heat. Stir in cheese, basil and green onions. Serve immediately.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ FOODLAND ONTARIO

Ingredients:

- 500 g (1 lb) asparagus, trimmed
- 2 sweet greenhouse peppers, seeded
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil, divided
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) each salt and pepper
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) greenhouse grape tomatoes
- 375 g (12 oz) penne or other short pasta (about 1 l/4 cups)
- 500 ml (2 cups) cooked chicken
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) red wine vinegar
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) crumbled aged white cheddar cheese
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) slivered fresh basil
- 2 green onions, thinly sliced

THE CANADIAN PRESS HO

▶ Celebrate spring with this light and nutritious chicken and veggie penne.

Looking out for youth

Website's goal is to promote a Gay-Straight Alliance in schools

ALEX DUFFY
EGALECANADA
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

While LGBTQ youth face many of the same pressures and confusions that most adolescents face in coming to terms with their transitioning bodies and academic and social stresses, they often must do so while negotiating a mammoth part of their identity.

Many questions can arise, including, how can I deal with this, how can I help make it better and where do I even start?

A good starting point is MyGSA.ca, the national LGBTQ safer schools and inclusive education website. It is the first and only national resource dedicated to helping LGBTQ youth.

It was developed to help create safer and more inclusive schools through the elimination of homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia, and the integration of LGBTQ matters.

ISTOCK

▶ MyGSA.ca can be a good source of information for LGBTQ youth.

The "GSA" part of the web address stands for Gay-Straight Alliance and refers to a student-led group or club where LGBTQ youth, youth with LGBTQ family members, and their allies can meet to tackle tough issues like discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

MyGSA.ca is a virtual place for all Canadians to come together to share experiences, stories, struggles and triumphs. The site is the hub of the Safe Schools Campaign by the LGBTQ human rights charity, the Egale Canada Human Rights Trust.

On the site, you'll find a variety of information and resources that you can use or pass along to the youth and educators in your life.

There are simple and informative postcards as well as comprehensive resource guides and step-by-step instructions to setting up a GSA at your local school. You'll also find examples of the many schools in Canada where students and educators alike are hard at work to make it better for all of us.

Indeed, since its launch just one year ago, 150 GSAs from every province in the country have registered on the site, each one viewable on the online GSA directory.

Take a look and see if your local school has a GSA — if not, why not?

LADY GAGA

'Seek out support'

Metro: What advice would you give to a young lesbian, gay or transgendered Canadian struggling at home or at school to discover him or herself — and his or her place in the world.

Const. Lynn MacDonald: The advice I would give to youth is to seek out support as soon as possible. They are not alone and there are some really great resources out there. Call the Kids Help Phone if they need someone to talk with. Check out the local LGBTQ resource centres in their area and look for youth support groups, counselling, etc. For kids that are struggling with their sexuality and faith, check online for organizations in their area that celebrate faith in an inviting and welcoming environment for LGBTQ people. I know that we tell our kids to hang on that it will get better but the reality is they shouldn't have to wait for it to get better. They don't deserve to be abused and we need to make the harassment and assaults stop. We need to hold the people who are doing it accountable. This can be tough for kids that aren't out so it is important for us as adults to step up and hold people accountable. We need to be the voice for our youth when they are not strong enough to stand up for themselves.

CONST. LYNN MACDONALD
CALGARY POLICE SERVICE
DIVERSITY RESOURCES UNIT

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Richard's love for Oanh led him to become a permanent Canadian resident.

WHO SAID SKYPE CAN'T HELP FOSTER LOVE?

Names:
Richard, 34, and Oanh, 30

Hometown:
Coquitlam, B.C.

Together since:
2009

Their story:

I (Richard) met Oanh while I was travelling around the world in 2008. I was passing through Vancouver, and a mutual friend asked Oanh to show me around town while I was there. When we met, I instantly felt a connection to her.

However, our friend had made me promise not to make any moves on Oanh, so I sadly left her behind and continued with my travels, making my way homeward to Scotland.

We kept in contact by email. When I moved to South Korea to be a teacher later that year, we began Skyping and our friendship and feelings for one another grew. We both knew we wanted to be together, but distance made that impossible. In April 2009, 15 months after we first met, we flew to the U.K. from opposite sides of the world for a short holiday. It was there that we shared our first kiss. I had to return to Korea, but we decided then and there that I would come to live with Oanh in Canada after my teaching contract finished.

I am now a permanent Canadian resident, and we can't wait to spend the rest of our lives together!

WE WANT TO KNOW HOW YOU MET! GO TO 2FORCOUPLES.COM NOW TO SUBMIT YOUR LOVE STORY

FEELING THE GAS SQUEEZE?

FUN AND FRUGAL

LESLEY SCORGIE
MONEY@METRONEWS.CA

Gasoline prices are raging upwards as the price of oil remains high and summer driving season demand increases.

If your budget is getting squeezed, get smart with your fuel consumption.

Ensure your vehicle is well maintained; regular oil changes and the right tire pressure.

Plan your travel in advance, avoid peak travel times to reduce idling and take the shortest route.

If you're travelling long distances, drive the speed limit and use cruise control.

When your speed is constant and within the limit, you'll use less fuel and avoid expensive traffic tickets.

Reduce clutter or unnecessary weight in your car and consolidate your errands into one trip.

To find the most affordable fuel in your area, check out sites like gasbuddy.com or gasticker.com.

You can also use smartphone apps that track local prices.

Consider alternative forms of transportation.

This past weekend, rather than driving, I pulled out my bicycle, filled the tires with air and rode 35 minutes to meet friends for coffee.

I saved money on fuel and got my daily exercise.

Try walking, running, biking, blading, car pooling or public transit to get to your destination.

If you're in the market for a new vehicle, consider one that's fuel efficient or uses an alternative fuel like natural gas or a hybrid.

When you cut back on your fuel consumption you'll save money and reduce your emissions.

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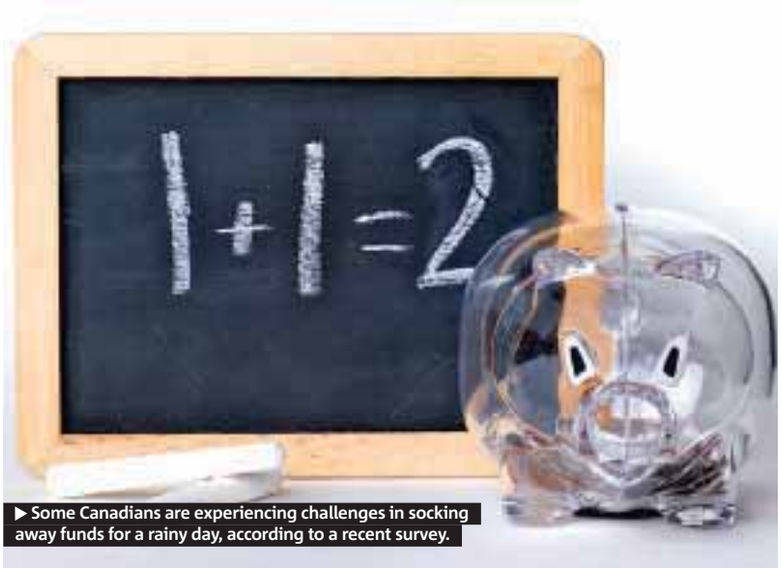
Do you feel like a math dummy? You're not alone

ISTOCK



▶ Some Canadians are experiencing challenges in socking away funds for a rainy day, according to a recent survey.

Most Canadians lack confidence and skills when it comes to math and money matters, according to a new survey released last week.

The online poll, conducted on behalf of ABC Life Literacy Canada, found 79 per cent of Canadians aren't fully confident in their ability to teach another person about money, saving and budgeting.

The Ipsos Reid survey found six in 10 Canadians say they can use help with their financial management skills, including 73 per cent of those aged 18 to 34.

The survey found 38 per cent aren't putting any money into long-term savings on a monthly basis, while 36 per cent are putting away $200 or less a month.

Those with less education are much less likely to be comfortable that they have the skills needed to secure a financial future, said Sean Simpson, associate vice-president with Ipsos Reid. But even among Canadians with a university degree, there are many who still aren't confident that they have the skills needed, he added.

"Overall, what we're finding is there is in general a lack of understanding, of familiarity, among many Canadians when it comes to some key financial terms and when it comes down to it in their own beliefs and capabilities to plan for a secure future," he said.

The release of the findings coincided with the announced launch of Financial Literacy Week taking place from Oct. 30 to Nov. 5.

The initiative is a national awareness and engagement campaign aimed at increasing the financial literacy and math skills of Canadians.

It will include coast-to-coast community events and provide financial literacy tools and resources, said Margaret Eaton, president of ABC Life Literacy Canada.

Eaton said adults are the first teachers for their children and it's crucial they're comfortable passing along their knowledge on money matters.

"It is really important that parents have these skills and it is a great way to begin with your children to start them off by having an allowance, start taking about budgeting, start talking about making charitable donations," she said.

"This is the time to start to pass on those skills, but we also want to make sure the adults have those skills."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

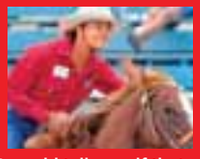
Cash confusion

Simpson said there may be a number of factors as to why there appears to be a financial knowledge gap, notably among those under 35.

- It could simply be they don't have money, or are uncertain of how much or how to save, he said.
- It's also important to note young people today have to deal with much more complexity in their financial lives than previous generations, says Amy Hanen, senior manager of community relations with TD Bank Group.

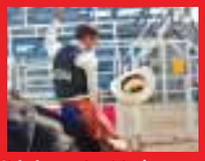
LADY GAGA

'What advice would you give your 15-year-old self, knowing now what you didn't know then.'



I would tell myself that the attraction I was feeling for my girlfriends would in the long run be who I am. That my parents would love me unconditionally and that no one that I cared about would turn their back on me. I would tell myself that the future is full of great times and a life filled with love. I would tell myself to be more confident in who I was and that people would love me for who I am. I would tell myself how great my life was going to be, how times would change and the world becomes more accepting and open as each year passes. I would tell myself to love with all my heart and not hold back ... in the end, love is what makes our life worth living.

Lori Andrews, Canadian Rockies International Rodeo All Around Champion 2010



It is important to learn life lessons now and apply them to how you want to grow and develop. Absorb what you can from life and opportunities will come your way. Wait until you feel comfortable with yourself and have confidence in yourself before you come out. It is not wrong to mature and experience life knowing who and what you are and then come out when the time is right for you. Spend time building your confidence, educating yourself, your family and friends, and come out when it feels right for you

I am glad I followed the path I did and experienced all the things I did. I don't regret waiting to come out when I did because it was when I was supposed to. If I came out earlier, I might have lost life experiences that made me who I am today. Be confident about coming out and don't worry about coming out because it is never as bad as we anticipate. Those who love us will eventually come to terms with who we are and know that we are confident, loving and happy individuals.

Scott Woodruff, Canadian Rockies International Rodeo All Around Champion 2010

HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Canucks players stretch during a practice yesterday.

Cool as ice

Along with talent, Canucks have improved their composure for playoffs, learned not to panic

A team can sign talent and draft skill, but composure is something that must be learned.

The Vancouver Canucks made themselves better this year by improving their defence and adding depth on their third line. But patience and confidence are the biggest reasons Vancouver overcame a 2-1 deficit to defeat the San Jose Sharks 3-2 in the opening game of the Western Conference final.

In past years the Canucks might have panicked. The team could have turned into a bunch of individuals trying to do too much.

Not this group.

"We don't really overreact or lose our composure at any point of the game," forward Alex Burrows said after the Canucks practised at Rogers Arena yesterday.

"We just stick with it. I think we got better as the year went on, sticking with the process and sticking with the 60-minute plan. If it has to take 55 or 59 minutes to get it done, we are willing to wait instead of forcing things. It has to do with maturity and more experience."

The Canucks will get a chance to extend their lead when Game 2 is played tomorrow (CBC, 9 p.m.). The best-of-seven series will return to San Jose for games Friday and Sunday afternoon.

The Canucks know the Sharks desperately want to avoid going down 2-0 in the series.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 sports

Quoted

"Time is running short. It's time to get back to the table and get those issues resolved."

NFL COMMISSIONER ROGER GOODELL. THE NFL'S LOCKOUT STAYS, A FEDERAL APPEALS COURT RULED YESTERDAY. THAT MEANS THE LEAGUE LIKELY WON'T GET BACK TO BUSINESS UNTIL NEXT MONTH AND MAYBE FOR MUCH LONGER.

Winnipeg group reportedly in talks with Thrashers

Thrashers president Don Waddell said yesterday the team is exploring "all options" for new owners as there are reports that for the first time those options include a group interested in moving the team to Winnipeg.

Co-owner Bruce Levenson, NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly and Waddell would not confirm a report by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution that Thrashers owners are in negotiations with True North Sports and Entertainment, which would relocate the team to Winnipeg. The paper cited a person close to the process.

"We've never commented, and aren't going to start now, on who we're talking to or not talking to," Levenson told The Associated Press. "Even if I wanted to, I can't, because whenever we engage in any kinds of serious discussions with anybody, we sign confidentiality agreements. We always honour those." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

28th

The Thrashers' rank in terms of average attendance among the 30 NHL teams. The team's average attendance this past season was 13,469 per game.

Sports in brief

Woods expects to resume play next month

GOLF. Tiger Woods says he didn't do any more damage to his left leg at The Players Championship and expects to play the U.S. Open next month.

Woods made it only nine holes last week at The Players when he withdrew because of what he described as a chain reaction of pain from his left knee to left Achilles and tightening in his calf.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stress fracture for Wright

BASEBALL. Mets third baseman David Wright has a stress fracture in his lower back that is expected to keep him out a couple weeks, though the team is awaiting a second opinion before deciding whether to put him on the disabled list.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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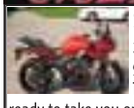
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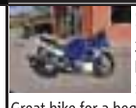
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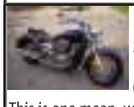
2006 Suzuki GSX / Katana 600
12,700km 600cc
Great bike for a beginner. Great for trips out of the city.


$6,353.00
2004 Honda VTX 1300
60,800km 1300cc
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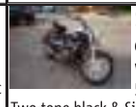
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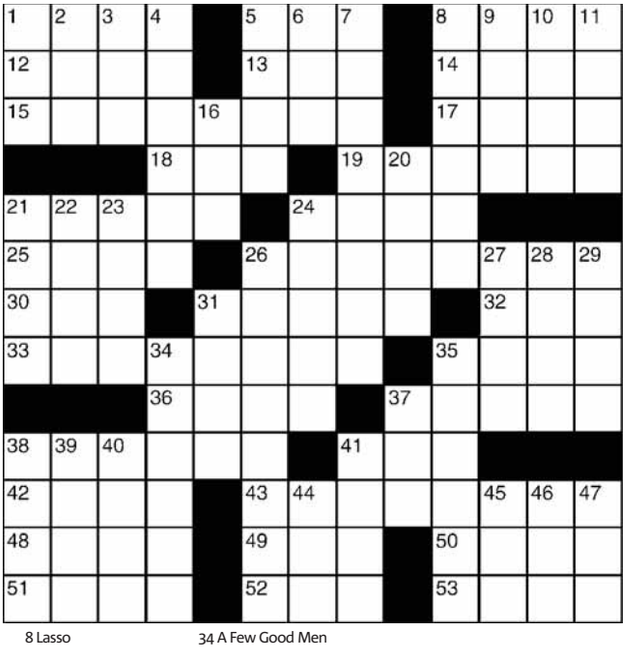
Crossword



Across
1 Harmonization, for short
5 Floral neckwear
8 Burden
12 Twosome
13 Charged bit
14 Competent
15 Obvious
17 React to yeast
18 Second person
19 Tabloid worker
21 Necktie alternative
24 Vicinity
25 Bank transaction
26 Hunger
30 Emeril's shout
31 Figure of speech
32 Extinct bird
33 OK
35 Weaponry
36 British school
37 Beginning
38 Crazy one
41 Have bills
42 Once more, colloquially
43 Sweater decoration
48 Star Wars hero
49 Miler Sebastian
50 Pout
51 Lecherous look
52 Longing
53 Fill till full

Down
1 Resort
2 Puppy's call
3 Pinch
4 Colouring stick
5 Stead
6 A billion years
7 Crime-fighting group based in Lyon, France
8 Lasso
9 Final notice
10 As well
11 Antelope's playmate
16 Deteriorate
20 Consider
21 Actress Jessica
22 Laundry need
23 Bivouac
24 Pertaining to bees
26 Support of a cause
27 Don of radio
28 Color quality
29 Right on the map?
31 Tittle
34 A Few Good Men director
35 Layered rock
37 Hooter
38 Shoppers' mecca
39 Chills and fever
40 "Swoosh" company
41 Tournament format
44 "The Raven" writer
45 Sine — non
46 Last (Abbr.)
47 — out a living

▶ Yesterday's answer

B	O	G		S	T	E	E	D		H	A	M
A	V	E		C	O	N	D	O		A	R	E
H	A	L	L	O	W	E	E	N		L	E	T
			E	T	E		M	O	O	L	A	H
M	O	H	A	I	R		A	R	M	S		
A	B	A		A	E	R		S	I	T	B	Y
P	O	L	O		D	E	B		T	A	R	O
S	E	L	M	A		F	I	R		T	A	U
		M	A	R	L		P	O	S	T	E	R
C	H	A	N	C	E		O	D	E			
H	E	R		H	A	L	L	I	W	E	L	L
A	R	K		E	V	I	A	N		E	Y	E
D	O	S		S	E	E	R	S		K	E	G

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Sudoku

1		6				2		4
	2		9		6		5	
5			4		3			8
		8	1		4	9		
		3	7		2	5		
2			8		9			3
	6		2		7		8	
3		9				7		5

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

2	6	9	3	1	7	8	4	5
1	5	4	6	8	9	3	7	2
7	3	8	2	4	5	9	6	1
3	9	6	1	5	2	4	8	7
5	8	2	7	6	4	1	3	9
4	1	7	9	3	8	2	5	6
8	4	1	5	9	6	7	2	3
6	7	3	4	2	1	5	9	8
9	2	5	8	7	3	6	1	4

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

justice, boo boos i love you soooo much you are my everything i never want you to leave
From **LAURA**

Hoa, You are amazing in every way sweet, your eyes, your lips you are perfect and beautiful muahhhhhh-hhhhhhhhh
From **DOUBLE**

Marcus, have a great 33rd birthday today. I can't wait to celebrate it on the long weekend.
From **ROMO**

Natty-bear, Natalie, I love you more than you could possibly know, I just wish you knew how much I do. You are the sweetest most beautiful girl I have ever met in my short lifetime. I hope we get to spend a lifetime and half together.
With love
From **JARE-BEAR**

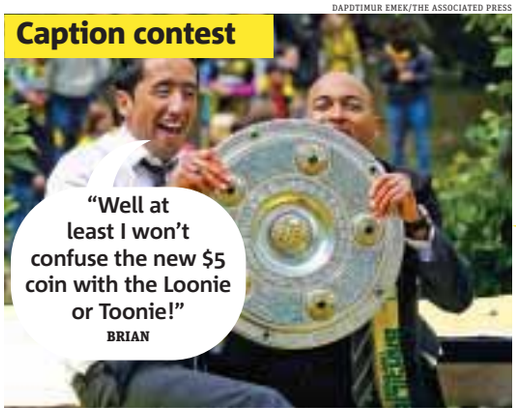
Today's horoscope

♈ **Aries** March 21-April 20 Financial security and emotional security are not the same thing.
♉ **Taurus** April 21-May 21 Don't be obsessive about events that are over and done with.
♊ **Gemini** May 22-June 21 Live each new day as it comes. Never look back.
♋ **Cancer** June 22-July 22 You will find yourself caught between rival viewpoints today
♌ **Leo** July 23-Aug.23 Call it as you see it today, because if you say things merely to impress others in authority your efforts could come unstuck.
♍ **Virgo** Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Once you understand the bigger meaning the little things will fall into place.
♎ **Libra** Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Make sure you know exactly what you are going to say before you open your mouth.
♏ **Scorpio** Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You don't take kindly to those who disagree with you.
♐ **Sagittarius** Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Smile, don't frown – it suits you so much better.
♑ **Capricorn** Dec. 22-Jan. 20 . Avoid friends though if they get emotional.
♒ **Aquarius** Jan. 21-Feb. 18 There may be a conflict between your home life and your work commitments.
♓ **Pisces** Feb. 19-March 20. The more people tell you that you are neglecting your duties the more you can be certain that it is right to neglect them

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

DAPDTIMUR EMEK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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